

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE:

Clinic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL:

Civic

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

CONCRETE

walls

BRICK

roof

ASPHALT

other

STONE: Limestone

TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c.1910-1947

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ellwood, Willard M.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend
& St. Joseph County

Children's Dispensary
Name of Property

St. Joseph IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 561090 4613900
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff, Consulting Historian

organization date 3-26-97

street & number 1753 S. Talbott telephone 317/367-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Hansel Neighborhood Center, Inc.

street & number 1045 W. Washington telephone 219/234-6041

city or town South Bend state IN zip code 46601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Children's Dispensary

St. Joseph County IN

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The former Children's Dispensary (renamed the Hansel Center in 1966) sits on the north side of West Washington Street in a mostly residential area marked by large trees and a number of vacant lots, especially toward the west. Across the street slightly to the east is the long-abandoned public natatorium that was built a few years before the dispensary. A few blocks east is the West Washington Street Historic District, characterized by large late nineteenth and early twentieth century high-style dwellings.

The main building is surrounded by a substantial fence that predates the dispensary; the front (see photo 1), enclosing yet revealing the main south facade, is of open ironwork with brick posts; the east (see photo 2), north, and west sides are brick walls. There is an arched pedestrian service entrance at the far east end of the north wall, and a vehicular entrance just west of it. Nestled between these entrances in the northeast corner of the property is a one-and-a-half story garage (photo 3) with living space above. Designed to mimic a picturesque cottage, the building, which is brick on the first story and stucco above, features numerous Craftsman elements. Its gabled roof has rolled eaves and two dormers, one gabled and one flat-roofed. Windows still contain the original four-over-one double-hung wood sashes. The arched garage door opening has been framed in and now contains a small window and entry door. The building is presently used for offices and storage. Although clearly built as a garage with living quarters, it is unknown whether it was ever used for the purpose before the Children's Dispensary acquired it. Apparently there never was a house on the property, although the 1917 Sanborn map indicates a large foundation. The fence/wall and the garage are certainly early twentieth century, ca. the 1910s.

The main building (see photo 1), constructed in 1925, is a handsome two-story brick structure with limestone trim, essentially T-shaped. The original one-over-one wood frame double hung sashes remain. The northward extension's window openings, which light the gymnasium within, are filled with glass block. The central portion of the south facade protrudes one bay forward; centered above the second-floor windows is an inset limestone tablet inscribed "CHILDREN'S DISPENSARY." At the center of the south facade is a one story entrance with a single door flanked by sidelights. Above the entrance is a round-arched terra cotta panel with a nearly full-round sculpture: a reproduction of Della Robbia's "Bambino" (see photo 4). The building's flat roof was originally covered with a wooden deck, which explains the third-story penthouse that shelters the stairway access to the roof.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Children's Dispensary

St. Joseph County IN

The interior, which boasts terrazzo floors and a stairway with decorative iron posts and ballusters (photo 5), appears to be largely intact. The east and west wings of the building, once used for classes, medical care, and social organizations, are now mostly offices and meeting spaces, but appear relatively unchanged. Most of the partitions between the long east-west hall and the various rooms seem to be of a relatively insubstantial material, probably some sort of plywood and heavily painted, but they appear to be original, coinciding with the patterns in the terrazzo floor. Their entrance doors are topped with transoms. The stem of the "T" contains the gymnasium (photo 6), which is today used as a daycare center and so is filled with several freestanding dividers to create office, classroom and play spaces, none of which are permanent.

The property contains three contributing resources: the main building, the garage, and the surrounding wall.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Children's Dispensary

St. Joseph County IN

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As part of the larger movement for social reform in health services, the Children's Dispensary represents the community's efforts to provide a comprehensive program of general medical care to disadvantaged children. The functional and still handsome building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of social history and health/medicine.

The movements for social welfare that characterized the Progressive Era at the turn of the twentieth century did not miss South Bend. The Associated Charities formed "to systemize and regulate the giving of aid to the weak ones of society." Among major concerns was public health. During the first decade of the 1900s the Visiting Nurse Association was organized (1902), and Dr. Charles E. Hansel helped found the St. Joseph County Anti-Tuberculosis League in 1908. The following year the fledgling organization erected four cottages in Pottowatami Park to house an anti-tuberculosis camp.

Born in 1874, Dr. Hansel had come to South Bend from Lakeville in 1905. A graduate of the Illinois College of Medicine, he had completed his medical studies in Boston, specializing in children's diseases. Perhaps influenced by the fact that his own son had been sickly from birth, Hansel dreamed of opening a free children's clinic in South Bend, where the infant mortality rate was high. In 1909, with financial help from Richard Elbel, the president of Associated Charities, among others, the Children's Dispensary was organized. Hansel served as its medical director. First located in a rented storefront in a small frame building at 1029 West Division [today, Western Avenue] and furnished with piecemeal donations, the dispensary in its first few years mainly served to distribute free milk to poor children during the summer months. The Visiting Nurse Association provided a few hours of services, and other doctors donated their time. By 1912 the dispensary had its own fulltime nurse and its services were available year round.

As its programs expanded, the dispensary moved across the street into a large two-story house at 1040 West Division. The location was no accident; it was placed in the heart of a poor workingclass neighborhood, whose mostly foreign-born residents worked at the large factories of Studebaker, Oliver, and Singer. By the mid-1910s the dispensary had extended its medical services to include classes to instruct mothers in childcare, nutrition, and sanitation. It also served as a social and cultural center where low-income children could participate in concerts, plays, and festivals. A small library branch was added, and various clubs for boys and girls instituted. Sewing

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Children's Dispensary

St. Joseph County IN

classes were also offered. In 1921 dental care became available, followed by an eye, ear, nose, and throat clinic. An operating room provided a place for tonsillectomies and circumcisions. In 1922 the dispensary added a weekly cardiac clinic.

By this time it was clear the Children's Dispensary needed considerably more space. That year the organization purchased property in the 1100 block of West Washington with the help of a large donation. It must have been a dream come true for the Children's Dispensary to find property to build upon that was so suitable for its purposes and within reach of its clients. Already surrounded by a brick wall on three sides and fronted with an iron fence, the land contained a garage with living space above and an excavated basement for a house that was never completed. A fund drive was begun, and early in 1925 construction began on the new Children's Dispensary facility, designed by local architect Willard M. Ellwood. (His remaining extant works include several residences and some downtown hotel buildings.) It opened in December of the same year. Unfortunately, Dr. Hansel, who had remained the dispensary's medical director until 1916, had not lived to see this fulfillment of his dream. A tireless proponent of public health, he was president of the City Board of Health as well as a member of the South Bend Clinic at the time of his premature death from a heart attack in 1919.

The new building contained thirty rooms, including a gymnasium, a spacious lobby, a kitchen, offices, classrooms, hospital wards, and operating rooms. The gym was not so much intended for recreation as for a place to conduct various therapeutic exercises. The Children's Dispensary was fully equipped to give free comprehensive health care to needy children through age sixteen, as well as innumerable support services to improve their lives at home. There were, perhaps, ulterior motives beyond pure altruism. South Bend Mayor Eli Seebirt had noted at the cornerstone ceremonies that "bad health leads to idleness and idleness leads to immorality and crime."

After World War II needs and the neighborhood changed. The original mainstay of the Children's Dispensary, the long-lived milk fund, was discontinued in 1951, and in 1956 the South Bend Parks and Recreation Board took over administration of the gymnasium for use as a senior citizen center. At the end of 1966 the entire medical operation of the Children's Dispensary was absorbed by Memorial and St. Joseph hospitals, although the organization continues as the administrator of Camp Millhouse. (An outgrowth of the earlier fresh air camps at Pottowatami Park, Camp Millhouse began in 1940 on an eleven-acre tract donated for a "sunshine camp.") United Community Services rented the dispensary building, which was renamed the Hansel Center. Today it is a neighborhood center offering various counseling services and housing a daycare facility.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9. 10 Page 5

Children's Dispensary

St. Joseph County, IN

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clipping Files. "Children's Dispensary." Historic Preservation Commission of South Bend and St. Joseph County.

Howard, Timothy Edward. History of St. Joseph County, Indiana. Chicago: 1907.

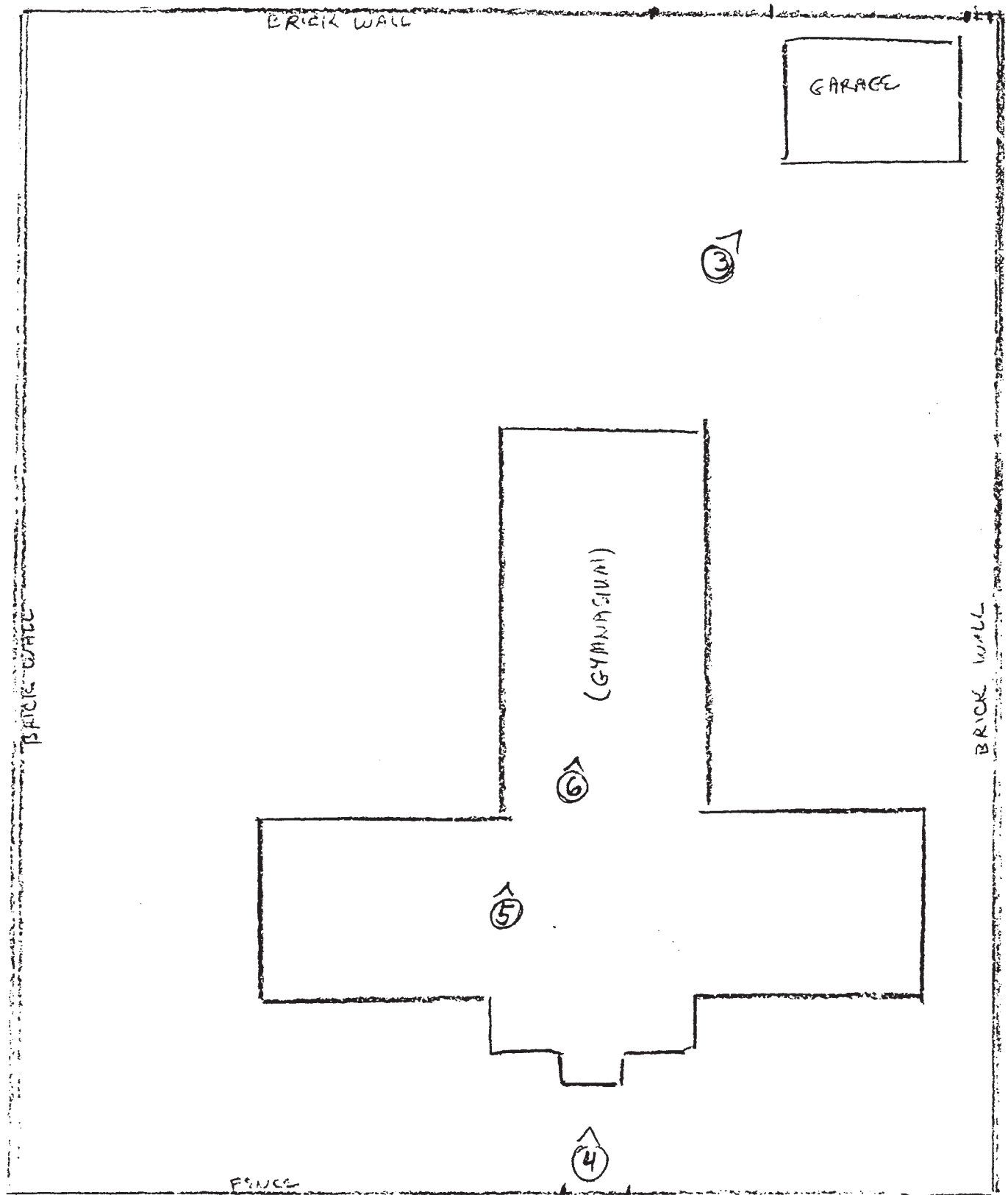
Sanborn Insurance Maps of South Bend, Indiana. New York: 1917, 1934/45.

Stoll, John B. (Ed.) An Account of St. Joseph County from Its Organization. Dayton: 1923.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

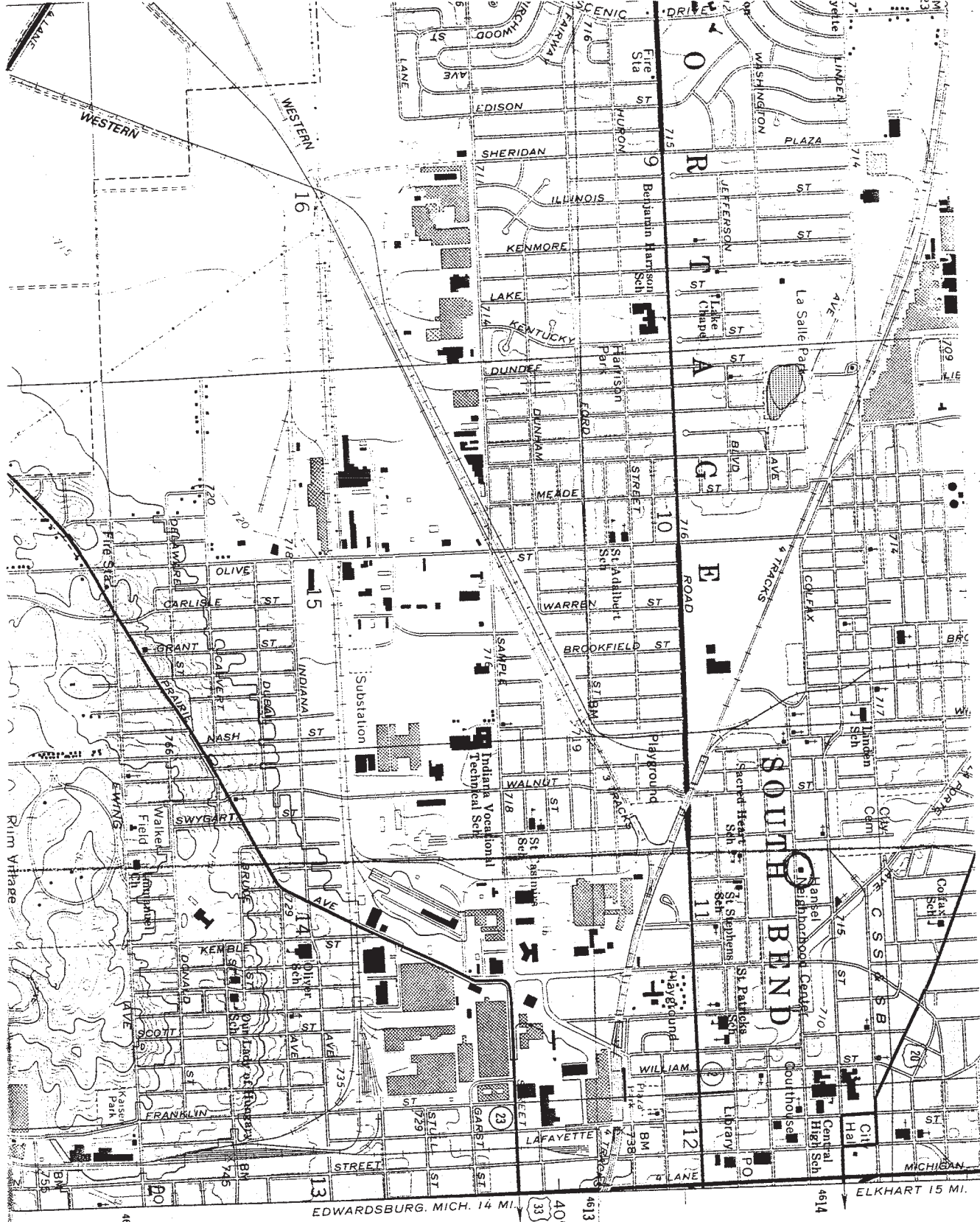
Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

The exterior of the fence and wall that surrounds the Children's Dispensary/Hansel Center constitutes the present and historic boundary of the property.



CHILDREN'S DISPENSARY

D7



EDWARDSBURG, MICH. 14 MI. 4613
40° 33' 4611
ELKHART 15 MI. 4614